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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
09/845,336	05/01/2001	Toshiya Uemura	PW 280291 T36-131965M/KOH	2254
21254	7590	03/21/2006	EXAMINER	
MCGINN INTELLECTUAL PROPERTY LAW GROUP, PLLC 8321 OLD COURTHOUSE ROAD SUITE 200 VIENNA, VA 22182-3817			SCHILLINGER, LAURA M	
			ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
			2813	

DATE MAILED: 03/21/2006

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary

Application No.

09/845,336

Applicant(s)

UEMURA ET AL.

Examiner

Laura M. Schillinger

Art Unit

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-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 30 November 2005.
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-7, 15-19 and 23-31 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-7, 15-19 and 23-31 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☒ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☒ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
- 1) ☒ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 - 2) ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 - 3) ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- 1) ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
- 2) ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
- 3) ☐ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____.
- 4) ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____.
- 5) ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
- 6) ☐ Other: _____.

DETAILED ACTION

Allowability is hereby withdrawn in view of newly discovered prior art.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102

The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

(a) the invention was known or used by others in this country, or patented or described in a printed publication in this or a foreign country, before the invention thereof by the applicant for a patent.

Claims 1-2, 4-7, 17-18, 23-24, 26-31 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(a) as being anticipated by Ishikawa (JP 11330565 A).

In reference to claim 1, Ishikawa teaches a device comprising:

A semiconductor laminate portion including a light-emitting layer (34); and

A reflection surface (44) disposed so as to be opposite to a side surface of the semiconductor laminate portion (34), wherein the semiconductor laminate portion (34) and the reflection surface(44) are provided in one and the same chip (base -16), and a predetermined distance is provided between the semiconductor laminate portion and the reflection surface (Fig.6).

In reference to claim 2, Ishikawa teaches wherein the reflection surface (44) reflects light from the side surface of the semiconductor laminate portion (34) into a direction of an optical axis of the light-emitting device (Fig.6).

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In reference to claim 4, Ishikawa teaches wherein the reflection surface is made of a material which is the same as that of an n pad electrode (0037 and 0041).

In reference to claim 5, Ishikawa teaches wherein a portion of the n pad electrode opposite to the side surface of the semiconductor laminate portion forms a second reflection surface (0037).

In reference to claim 6, Ishikawa teaches wherein the reflection surface is formed on an n-type semiconductor layer which is formed by etching a first depth, and the n pad electrode is formed on the n-type semiconductor layer which is formed by etching to be a second depth shallower than the first depth (Fig.4b).

In reference to claim 7, Ishikawa teaches wherein the reflection surface is formed integrally with the n pad electrode (0037).

17. A group III nitride compound semiconductor light-emitting device according to claim 1, wherein said reflection surface is formed on a layer in said semiconductor laminate portion (0037).

18. (Previously presented) A group III nitride compound semiconductor light-emitting device according to claim 1, wherein an upper surface of said reflection surface (44) is elevated higher than said light-emitting layer (34) (Fig.6).

23. A group III nitride compound semiconductor light-emitting device according to claim 1, wherein said reflection surface reflects light emitted from said side surface of said semiconductor laminate portion (Fig.6)

24. A group III nitride compound semiconductor light-emitting device according to claim 1, wherein said reflection surface comprises a shape for reflecting light in a direction of an optical axis for said light emitting device (Fig.6).

26. A group III nitride compound semiconductor light-emitting device according to claim 1, wherein said direction of an optical axis comprises a direction of a center axis of said device (Fig.6).

27. (Previously presented) A group III nitride compound semiconductor light-emitting device according to claim 1, further comprising: an n-pad electrode formed on said semiconductor laminate portions said reflection surface comprising a side surface of said n-pad electrode having a shape for reflecting light in a direction of an optical axis for said light-emitting device (Fig.6 and 0037).

28. (Previously presented) A group III nitride compound semiconductor light-emitting device according to claim 1, wherein said reflection surface is formed around a circumference of said light-emitting device (Fig.6).

29. A group III nitride compound semiconductor light-emitting device according to claim 1, wherein at least a portion of the reflection surface (44) is formed near a plane of said light-emitting layer (34) (Fig.6).

30. A group III nitride compound semiconductor light-emitting device according to claim 1, wherein said reflection surface (44) is disposed so as to be transversely opposite to a side surface of said light-emitting layer (34) (Fig.6).

31. A group III nitride compound semiconductor light-emitting device according to claim 1, wherein said reflection surface comprises a thickness of at least 0.7 μm (Col.5, lines: 1-10-sum of thickness of laminate layers).

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

Claims 3, 15-16, 19 and 25 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Ishikawa (JP 411330565A) in further view of Komoto ('940).

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Ishikawa teaches the limitations of claim 1, however fails to teach the limitations of claims 3, 15-16, and 25 as pertaining to the distance between the reflective layer and the light emitting layer.

However Komoto teaches a similar structure including a groove etched in the layers to provide a separated reflective surface for a side light emitting layer and teaches:

In reference to claim 3, Komoto teaches wherein a distance between the reflection surface and the side surface of the semiconductor laminate portion is in a range of from 0.1 to 10 μm (col.5, lines: 60-68).

In reference to claim 15, Komoto teaches wherein a distance between the reflection surface and the side surface of the semiconductor laminate portion is in a range of from 0.2 to 7 μm (Col.5, lines: 60-68).

In reference to claim 16, Komoto teaches wherein a distance between the reflection surface and the side surface of the semiconductor laminate portion is in a range of from 0.3 to 5 μm (Col.5, lines:60-68).

25. Komoto teaches group III nitride compound semiconductor light-emitting device according to claim 1, wherein said predetermined distance comprises a distance between said reflection surface and said side surface of said semiconductor laminate portion which is no greater than 10 μm (Col.5, lines: 60-68).

It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art to modify Ishikawa's teachings to further include the distance ranges taught by Komoto because such distances are suitable for LEDs and moreover, these claims are prima facie obvious without showing that the claimed ranges achieve unexpected results relative to the prior art range. In re Woodruff, 16 USPQ2d 1935, 1937 (Fed. Cir. 1990). See also In re Huang, 40 USPQ2d 1685, 1688 (Fed. Cir. 1996) (claimed ranges of a result effective variable, which do not overlap the prior art ranges, are unpatentable unless they produce a new and unexpected result which is different in kind and not merely in degree from the results of the prior art). See also In re Boesch, 205 USPQ 215 (CCPA) (discovery of optimum value of result effective variable in known process is ordinarily within skill of art) and In re Aller, 105 USPQ 233 (CCPA 1955) (selection of optimum ranges within prior art general conditions is obvious).

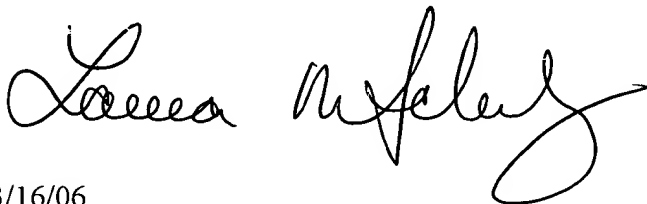
Lastly, Ishikawa teaches the limitations of claim 1, however fails to teach the limitation of claim 19 wherein group III nitride compound semiconductor light-emitting device according to claim 1, wherein said reflection surface comprises a curved reflection. However, Komoto teaches the groove may have a curved surface (Fig. 3C). Therefore it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art to make the grooves taught by Ishikawa, curved as taught by Komoto since Komoto teaches the shape may be either square or circular (Col. 6, lines: 15-20).

Conclusion

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Laura M. Schillinger whose telephone number is (571) 272-1697. The examiner can normally be reached on M-T, R-F 7:00-5:00.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Carl W. Whitehead, Jr. can be reached on (571) 272-1702. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 703-872-9306.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Laura M. Schillinger', with a stylized, flowing script.

Laura M Schillinger
Primary Examiner
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03/16/06